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ATOMIC ENERGY OFFICIAL: NO POLICY CLASH WITH U.S.

PY262138 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 26 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] The United States should "view in a good light" the nuclear cooperation projects which Argentina, jointly with other countries of South America, has undertaken, National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) President Vice Admiral Carlos Castro Madero said yesterday upon his arrival at the Ezeiza Airport from Peru.

Castro Madero indicated that he did not believe this policy at all clashes with policy of the United States, since although Argentina aspires to total sovereignty over its own (nuclear) fuel--while the U.S. seeks to clench right controls on all atomic energy-producing countries so that not one of them will be able to build nuclear arms--Argentina's goal is peaceful atomic development. "U.S. concern", Castro Madero pointed out, "centers mainly on so-called 'sensitive' installations, some of which are currently under construction in this country."

CNEA STARTS SHIPMENTS OF URANIUM TO BRAZIL

PY241659 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1209 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Mendoza, 24 Apr (NA)--Felix Rodrigo, director of the Nuclear Supplies Department of the National Atomic Energy Commission (CNEA) announced here that Argentina has already started to ship concentrated uranium to Brazil and that "new lodes of uranium" have been found in the Sierra Pintada deposit.

Rodrigo asserted that the approximately 120 tons of concentrated uranium which will be delivered to Brazil this year were produced in 1980 and pointed out that that "there is no concern" over the amount of our reserves since this shipment "is within our normal capability and we had provided for it long ago."

He said that a work schedule is being carried out in Sierra Pintada area, San Rafael, 245 km from this capital and that the drilling aimed at detecting "new lodes of uranium has given good results so far."

RETIRED ADMIRALS DISCUSS BEAGLE CHANNEL DISPUTE

PY262112 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 25 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] Two retired admirals spoke on the Beagle Channel dispute yesterday, saying that war with Chile was "neither the best nor a definite solution" and that if the pope "makes a mistake in mediation Argentina cannot abide by it".

Speaking on sea strategy at the "Argentina and the Sea" cycle organized by the navy's war school in Mendoza Province, former social welfare minister, retired Rear Admiral Jorge Fraga, said that a war with Chile "is neither the best nor a definite solution" to the territorial conflict. He nevertheless warned that "the trans-Andean nation will want to control the entire South Atlantic" if a version of the pope's proposed solution to the dispute--which appeared in a Buenos Aires daily (LA PRENSA, 7 January 1980)--is now confirmed as true.

Fraga added that in the case of confirmation of such a proposal, Chile "would want to control as far as the Sandwich Islands, the only ones over which Argentina exercises real sovereignty."

"Occupation by force would nonetheless prove an unpopular move for Argentina before the rest of the world," Fraga said later in his speech, "and we need the world's recognition of our rights."

The former minister complained that the papal proposal could lead to a long-term agreement, and he warned that "as we all already know what 'long terms' are to Argentines, this would mean that in the meantime nothing would stop Chile--a country well known for its aggressive expansion policies--in its advance."

Meanwhile at a ceremony commemorating the 80th session on the Beagle Channel and the South Atlantic discussions, held at the Argentine Social Museum of Buenos Aires, former vice president and retired Admiral Isaac Rojas said he agreed with the views on the subject expressed by retired General Luciano Menendez in an interview, which was later published by Nestor Montenegro as a book entitled "Thus He Thinks...Luciano B. Menendez".

NAVY CHIEF DISCUSSES POLITICAL PARTICIPATION

PY262103 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 25 Apr 81 p 9

[Text] The government will always welcome the voice and participation of its citizens, which will be channeled through the political parties, navy commander-in-chief, Admiral Armando Lambruschini, said during a ceremony held yesterday at the Almirante Brown Graduate Centre.

Prior to their active participation in government, the Argentine people must discard some of its incredulousness--which, he admitted has been based on experience--and reactivate its own initiative.

"Participation," he said, "is not a mere temporary objective of the (national reorganization) process, but its permanent goal."

"The will (to participate) must be fed with examples, Lambruschini said. "From (our positions of) power, our actions must be absolutely clear and must be impelled solely by our vocation for service."

"All great projects will nevertheless fail," he continued, "if they are not backed by a complete turnabout and renewal of the community's basic concepts and guidelines of political thinking."

"Our recuperation, must in the end be," he said " a moral recuperation."

PRC VICE FOREIGN MINISTER ZHANG WENJIN ENDS VISIT

PY251824 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1340 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 25 Apr (NA)--PRC Vice Foreign Minister Zhang Wenjin today said that his country will increase the imports of Argentine products in the next few years and that the increase "will not take place immediately but will be steady and gradual."

Wenjing returned to the PRC via Lima today after an official visit since last Tuesday.

He indicated that the objective of his visit was to "establish personal contact with Foreign Minister Oscar Camilion and other officials of the Argentine Foreign Ministry and give impulse to the existing friendly relations between the two countries." He also said that "more Chinese delegations will come in the future to strengthen cooperation and friendship in all aspects of international cooperation between the two countries.

BRIEFS

USSR GRAIN SHIPMENT CONTRACT--The Alianza Naviera Argentina shipping firm has signed a contract with the Soviet state utility Sovfracht for the transport to the USSR of almost 1 million tons of 1980-81 crop grains. The cereals will be transported on Argentine ships. The contract will total $45 million, the largest ever signed by a private shipping firm in Argentina. [Buenos Aires HERALD in English 22 Apr 81 p 13 PY]

ARGENTINE NUCLEAR OFFICIAL CONTINUES VISIT

Comments on Chilean Treaty

PY270258 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2300 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Lima, 24 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--The chairman of the Argentine Atomic Energy Commission [CNEA], Rear Adm Carlos Castro Madero, stated today that the Argentine-Chilean treaty of mutual nuclear cooperation is still in force despite the dispute over possession of the Beagle Channel. "The cooperation agreement has not been annulled, but it is natural that activities have been reduced, relations have cooled," he added during a press conference at the Argentine Embassy in Lima. Castro said that the restrictions that have been placed on the treaty are mutual, but that it is still in force.

MILITARY ACTION AGAINST TERRORISM UNDER STUDY

PY212320 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1920 GMT 21 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Lima, 21 Apr (TELAM)--The government is studying the eventual participation of the armed forces in stamping out the terrorist outbreaks that have escalated during the last 48 hours. Meanwhile, there have been charges of a plot to destabilize the democratic government. President Fernando Belaunde only has to press a button for the armed forces to go into action, a government source told TELAM today.

Vice Adm Juan Egusquiza Babilonia, chief of the joint command, also did not reject this possibility, asserting that if the president so requests, the armed forces are ready to help the police forces in the antiterrorist struggle. It has been learned that the terrorist actions have become a real headache for Belaunde, who is having hurried and secret meetings with the defense and interior ministers.

Communism Blamed for Attacks

PY270224 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2055 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Lima, 24 Apr (TELAM)--APRA [American Revolutionary Popular Alliance] Deputy Carlos Capelleti has revealed to congress that international communism, with money from Moscow, Beijing and Havana, pays up to 10 soles (approximately $25) to unwary young people from Ayacucho to explode dynamite sticks and make it appear that there is a terrorist wave in Peru. He said that he has conclusive evidence that young people have received money from people linked to international communism, but he gave no names. This is proof of communism's treacherous and anti-Peruvian policy, he added.

Ayacucho, east of Lima, is the scene of persistent terrorist attacks.

During the past few days the APRA, which is in opposition to the government, has also added its voice to the chorus of charges, from the government and its ally, the Popular Christian Party (PPC), regarding the existence of a plan to destabilize the democratic government, installed on 28 July after approximately 12 years of military government, in view of a wave of terrorist attacks that are shaking the country. APRA leader Fernando Leon de Vivero said that in our country the coups have always been prepared and targeted against the congress, and therefore it is necessary for the government to open its eyes.

FURTHER ON OPANAL GENERAL CONFERENCE MEETING

Nuclear Energy Discussed

FL240255 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0220 GMT 24 Apr 81

[By Luis Manuel Olvarrieta]

[Text] Mexico City, 23 Apr (NOTIMEX)--The seventh general conference of OPANAL--Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America--discussed the use of nuclear energy for peaceful ends, among other topics, at today's session. OPANAL is meeting at the Foreign Relations Secretariat (Mexican Foreign Ministry).

OPANAL emphasized the right of all countries to use nuclear energy in the development of their economies and improving the living standards of their people. It underscored the difference between the Tlatelolco treaty which allows the peaceful use of nuclear energy and respects the sovereignty of the member states, and the treaty on the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons which is discriminatory, since it allows some countries to possess nuclear weapons and others have to meet conditions for the use of nuclear energy.

The meeting also dealt with the right to peace. The Mexican delegate, Ambassador Antonio Gonzalez de Leon, said that in his opening address, Mexican Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda had implicitly, though not expressly, mentioned this topic when he said that Latin American countries, exercising their right to protect their nations from the nuclear threat, had united their sovereign wills to declare Latin America a denuclearized zone.

The conference will elect the next OPANAL secretary general tomorrow. Unofficially, Ambassador Jose Ricardo Martinez Cobo is expected to be unanimously elected. He is heading the Ecuadorean delegation to the conference and was ambassador to Mexico for 8 years. It is also expected that Mexico will be elected a member of the OPANAL council for a 4-year term.

Nicaraguan Denounces U.S.

PA241207 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 0339 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Mexico City--Nicaraguan Ambassador Aldo Diaz Lacayo asked the assembly of the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America, OPANAL, to condemn interventionist actions, [words indistinct] it is not possible to speak of intervention or denuclearization of the continent.

Speaking at the second session of OPANAL in Mexico, the Nicaraguan diplomat said peace in Central America, and specifically in Nicaragua, is being threatened by the organization of mercenary and counterrevolutionary movements encouraged and protected by some sectors of the new U.S. administration.

The U.S. representative at the meeting replied that his country is not threatening Nicaragua, to which Diaz Lacayo said to provide the statement in writing because if it is true, it would please us greatly, he noted.

Diaz Lacayo had declared that it would be senseless to speak of denuclearization without strongly condemning the threats of conventional war, which could be the prelude of a world conflict of greater proportions.

The request of the Nicaraguan diplomat was rebutted by the U.S. representative, who asked the assembly to declare the proposal out of order. The Nicaraguan ambassador replied that he would never have passed up the opportunity to denounce the movement of mercenary organizations encouraged by some sectors of the U.S. administration, which are threatening the peace of the Central American area, before such a forum as that of OPANAL.

Diaz Lacayo told reporters after the assembly that Nicaragua will demand that the United States ratify the additional protocols, which will commit that country to refrain from attacking or intervening in denuclearized areas.

Conference Ends

FL251501 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0240 GMT 25 Apr 81

[By Luis Manuel Olavarrieta]

[Text] Mexico City, 24 Apr (NOTIMEX)--Concluding its seventh period of sessions here today, the Organization for the Proscription of Nuclear Arms in Latin America (OPANAL) elected Dr Ricardo Martinez Cobo from Ecuador as its new secretary general. Martinez Cobo succeeds Dr Hector Gross Espiel. His 4-year term begins 1 July. Mexico and Peru will be part of the OPANAL council.

Noteworthy among the resolutions adopted is the OPANAL's call on Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Cuba and Guyana, which do not belong to the organization, to join as soon as possible. OPANAL appealed to the governments of the United States and France to ratify additional protocol No 1 which commits them to place their overseas territories under the military denuclearization system.

It was decided that the control and supervision measures established by the system of the Tlatelolco treaty are sufficient to assure the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. Therefore, the additional demands imposed unilaterally or jointly by countries which supply nuclear material, equipment and technology represent an unacceptable practice incompatible with the sovereign rights and independence of the developing countries.

It was emphasized that the Tlatelolco treaty member states have observed its control system which provides for supervision and control and covers the nuclear activities in countries where the system is applied.

The delegate from Mexico, Ambassador Joaquin Mercado, expressed the pressing need to fully implement complementary provisions for denuclearization, which consist of incorporating nuclear energy into the development of Latin American countries as part of the second phase of the Tlatelolco treaty. To this end, Mercado added, the Latin American countries must strive to preclude that political obstacles imposed by supplying countries are added to the high cost of financing investments for nuclear power plants. Therefore, we must help to reestablish credibility in international instruments if we do not want to reach the absurd point of thinking that initiatives aimed at guaranteeing world peace are manipulated measures to prevent progress, the Mexican ambassador explained.

The participants in the conference said they were pleased with the capable chairmanship of Ambassador Antonio Gonzalez de Leon of Mexico who summarized the agreements reached in his closing speech. He noted the work done by OPANAL's subsidiary organizations and General Secretariat as well as the work done for the Tlatelolco treaty, describing them as an effective exercise of the right to peace.

The OPANAL conference likewise recognized the excellent 4-year performance by outgoing Secretary General Dr Hector Gross Espiel. Lastly, the new OPANAL secretary general was asked to urge member states to render a report on their nuclear needs and to prepare an inventory to be presented at the next conference.

The participants in OPANAL's seventh session expressed gratitude to the Mexican Government and its President Jose Lopez Portillo for their hospitality and facilities provided for the good development of the conference.

TWO OPPOSITION SECTORS CREATE SINGLE ORGANIZATION

PA262255 Paris AFP in Spanish 1381 GMT 26 Apr 81

[Text] Panama, 26 Apr (AFP)--A new opposition political group, the Republic Liberal Movement, announced its creation today as a political party.

Sectors identified as liberals and republicans reached an agreement to organize a new national party. This party will be noted by its opposition line to the regime now in power.

The new political group became the fifth opposition group in Panama and is chaired by businessman and politician Cesar Arrocha.

Some of the party leaders who have joined the opposition party have returned to the country after having been exiled in other countries for several years, party spokesmen said.

The other opposition parties in Panama are the Christian Democratic Party, the National Liberal Party [PLN], Popular Action (Social Democrat) and Popular National. [as received]

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH TAIWAN

PA260331 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Panama Commerce and Industries Minister Arturo Melo informed Televisora Nacional about new industrial projects to be implemented with technical assistance by the Republic of China:

[Begin recording] [Question] Minister Melo, what results did you obtain for the country during your official visit last week to China?

[Answer] In regard to specific achievements, we signed a preferential trade agreement, a memorandum of understanding establishing the basis for the technical assistance they will continue giving us. They are giving technical assistance to the Agricultural Development Ministry and now they will also give technical assistance to the Commerce and Industries Ministry. They are going to deposit a sum of $100,000 to pay for the local expenses of the technicians they send us. We must deposit a similar amount, but on this visit it was agreed that even if we do not deposit ours they will deposit their share immediately and we shall begin the program with their contribution. They will pay for the transportation and salaries of technicians who will come here individually and they will give us technical assistance in various fields such as marine and mineral resources as well as in foreign trade to promote exports to Taiwan.

We shall also study the possibilities of developing Panama's timber resources, the paper industry, production of cardboard from cane sugar pulp and a number of other specific products. They are especially interested in a project we are analyzing in the Commerce and Industries Ministry to establish a coal transfer port on the Pacific coast. They informed us that they are greatly interested in this project and are also interested in prospecting for petroleum and copper.

I believe that with the memorandum of understanding we signed and the spirit of friendship between our two governments we shall see many positive results in the coming years. [end recording]

BELIZE

GOVERNOR REVOKES STATE OF EMERGENCY CURFEW

FL250212 Belize City Domestic Service in English 0100 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] His excellency the governor has revoked [words indistinct] state of emergency. All regulations related to the state of emergency [word indistinct] curfew have now been lifted. A release from the government information service this evening states that the revocation of the state of emergency does not affect the investigations or prosecution of any acts done contrary to the regulations that were imposed during the state of emergency.

COSTA RICA

PANAMANIAN NATIONAL GUARD ARRIVES TO TAKE WEAPONS

PA241415 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] A delegation of the Panamanian National Guard has arrived in Costa Rica to coordinate the return of weapons which Panama lent to Costa Rica during the Nicaraguan armed conflict in 1978-79. The several tons of weapons will be returned to Panama because the Costa Rican Government believes there is no justification for keeping them in Costa Rica.

Panamanian Air Force planes will come to Costa Rica to take back the weapons. The way that the weapons will be returned is being discussed at this time with the Panamanian National Guard delegation. According to reports, the Panamanian government minister will arrive in Costa Rica next week to begin taking back the weapons. This means that the Panamanian planes will begin to transport the weapons next week.

PLN DEPUTIES TO CONSIDER IMPEACHING CARAZO

PA241954 San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] President Carazo might be accused of being irresponsible. The accusation will be on three counts: ignoring constitutional order, meddling in another branch of the government and contempt.

National Liberation Party [PLN] Deputy Angel Edmundo Solano Calderon discussed President Carazo's decision to go ahead and implement the budget decree despite the views of the comptroller's office and the assembly:

[Begin recording] It is evident that the assembly acted in accordance with its constitutional powers and thus, since the Legislative Assembly voiced its disagreement and disapproval of the decree yesterday, in my judgment, the decree was rendered invalid without any need for a Supreme Court ruling. This is the position that some National Liberation Party deputies have taken. That would immediately make the president liable to impeachment by the Legislative Assembly for irresponsibility.

In any event, I think the matter has been discussed on several occasions and this may be the first time that a group of deputies will consider the possibility of impeaching the president for irresponsibility. We will consider that possibility if the president carries out his decision. I think it is necessary to put Mr Carazo, not President Carazo, in his place.

Another possibility is to resort to the courts and the president probably knows that this would take many months. In the meantime, the fiscal year would probably be over and, although the unconstitutionality ruling may be issued later, he would have done what he wanted.

Therefore, I think--and we will study this in the next few hours--that what best suits the facts of the matter for the sake of the very prestige of the assembly is the impeachment of the president for contempt, for overstepping into the functions of another branch--because he would be intruding on the duties of the legislative branch--and for ignoring the constitutional and legal order in effect in Costa Rica. [end recording]

GOVERNMENT UNIFIES CURRENCY EXCHANGE RATE

PA250433 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1725 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] San Jose, 24 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Costa Rican Government explained today that in purchasing dollars at the same price as the stock exchange, the banks will increase important reserves so that within a reasonable period of time, the exchange rate may be dropped to 15 colones per dollar, which some economists believe to be the present true dollar value.

At the same time, the government ordered a 6-percent increase on export duties. This increase was announced as part of a provisional agreement with the IMF, but it had not been implemented due to pressures from the business sector.

The authorities volunteered to the producers that the new duty would not be applied as long as there was no unified exchange rate.

According to reliable unofficial sources, in the near future the government will establish drastic measures to contain imports and reduce them to a minimum.

The finance minister said that he would notify the local IMF representative today about the measures adopted in order to continue the negotiations for the assistance agreement already underway.

EL SALVADOR

JUNTA EXTENDS STATE OF SIEGE FOR 30 MORE DAYS

PA251905 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Apr 81 pp 12, 29

[Excerpt] According to decree No 645 issued by the revolutionary junta, the suspension of the constitutional guarantees, better known as the state of siege, will continue in effect in the country for an additional 30 days.

The state of siege must be extended by junta decree "if the circumstances which caused them continue." However, "if the decree is not issued, the constitutional guarantees are automatically restored."

DUARTE WILLING TO HOLD UNCONDITIONAL DIALOGUE

PA250308 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 2141 GMT 24 Apr 81

[By Adrian Aldana]
[Text] San Salvador, 24 Apr (LATIN-REUTER)--President Jose Napoleon Duarte today said he is willing to meet with the leaders of the guerrillas in an effort to bring peace to El Salvador as long as no preconditions are imposed.

Nevertheless, he described as a political maneuver an offer made by the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) to hold talks if certain conditions were met.

Over 16,000 persons have died in the undeclared civil war affecting this country for the past 15 months.

In a telephone interview with this agency, Duarte said that the FMLN, the main guerrilla group in the country, was not really interested in peaceful negotiations. He added, however, that he was willing to dialogue without any previous conditions.

He said the FMLN offer, in the light of its reiterated claims that the revolution is the only way to gain power, shows the organization's lack of sincerity in its search for peace. He added that the guerrillas are only trying to confuse the public.

In yesterday's declaration, the FMLN said it was willing to hold peace talks whenever the government ends the alleged repression, releases the political prisoners, reopens the national university and lifts the state of siege and curfew.

The military authorities noted they were not surprised at the change of attitude of the guerrillas. "This shows that they are defeated militarily and believe peace talks are the only way to save something," they added.

These same sources said the state of siege and curfew cannot be lifted unless the conditions that prompted them disappear.

The government closed the national university, a bastion of the leftist activities, and suspended constitutional rights in 1980 in an effort to end political violence. The government has also repeatedly denied the existence of political prisoners in El Salvador.

Duarte said the only way to achieve peace in El Salvador is through a sincere dialogue between the opposing groups and through authentically free elections.

There are plans for constituent assembly elections for 1982, which will be followed by presidential elections in 1983.

When asked to comment on the reports that talks were already underway abroad between the government and leftist representatives, duarte said: "Such reports are false. They are mere rumors."

GOVERNMENT DENIES REPORTED ACCEPTANCE OF MEDIATION

PA250059 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1830 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Newspapers today carry an AP report from Mexico attributing to Jaime Alberto Lopez, the Salvadoran charge d'affaires in that country, statements to the effect that the Salvadoran Government would be willing to have Mexico mediate in its dialogue with leftists, although no specific proposal has been made.

In this regard, the Foreign Ministry announces that these statements, as published, were not authorized and do not constitute the official position of the Salvadoran Government. The government has not agreed to international mediation by organizations or states because it believes that the situation existing in the country can be resolved only through an internal political process leading to a democratic, pluralistic and participatory democracy.

Vice President's Remarks

PA251956 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1921 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] San Salvador, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--The Salvadoran Government will not accept the mediation of any state or of any domestic organization in the country's conflict, Jaime Abdul Gutierrez, vice president of the Salvadoran Government junta announced today.

Gutierrez, who also holds the post of commander in chief of the Salvadoran Armed Forces, made this statement at an event to commemorate Telecommunications Workers Day, held in the Presidente Theater in this capital.

He added that "the peoples must resolve their problems by themselves, and the Salvadoran Government's position remains unchanged in the sense that it does not permit other states to interfere in the problems of El Salvador."

He also said that "the armed forces remain loyal to the proclamation of 15 October 1979 and it is in order to fulfill that historic commitment that elections have been foreseen for 1982-83."

The armed forces published a proclamation on 15 October 1979 when Gen Carlos Humberto Romero, who was supported by the Salvadoran oligarchy, was overthrown.

In his speech, Gutierrez indicated that "the people must seek a political and democratic solution to the Salvadoran conflict. The government has already begun taking steps in connection with the electoral process to freely elect the new rulers of El Salvador."

FMLN-FDR LEADER DISAVOWS FPL STATEMENT ON TALKS

PA251929 (Clandestine) Radio Vencereмos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 25 Apr 81

["Important interview" granted by Companero Fabio Castillo, member of the Political-Diplomatic Commission of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front, FMLN, and the Revolutionary Democratic Front, FDR; date and place not given--recorded]

[Text] [Question] Dr Castillo, regarding the statement made by Companera Ana Maria, commander of the Popular Liberation Forces [FPL], on the beginning of negotiations with the Salvadoran Government junta, could you, as a member of the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission, tell us if this is true?

[Answer] I can tell you that that is inaccurate. It is not true that the FMLN has entered a process of negotiations. Therefore, the statement made by the FPL companera is not only inaccurate but lacks authority as well. Should there be anything to announce in connection with this, she would not be the one authorized to provide such information.

[Question] This means then that no negotiations or talks have begun yet with the Salvadoran Government junta?

[Answer] There have been no talks of any kind, let alone negotiations. Months ago the FMLN-FDR Political-diplomatic Commission announced its willingness to hold a dialogue and even talks that might eventually lead to negotiations. On subsequent occasions, the commission has expressed its approval in principle of the international mediation proposed by the Socialist International in Panama City on 1 March this year. The Socialist International has already taken some steps in this regard, but so far there is absolutely no important news to announce. In other words, no significant advances have been made in this regard that might merit a public announcement.

[Question] Does this definitely mean that neither the struggle has been stopped nor the war has ended, as reported in the press today?

[Answer] I can assure you that the struggle has not ended, that the war was not stopped. Perhaps the companera commander of the FPL never said such a thing and the paper actually reported its own interpretations. What's more, the war could not stop because a process of talks and negotiations does not necessarily imply the termination of hostilities. A process of negotiation can eventually lead to a temporary or final cessation of hostilities, precisely as a result of the negotiations, as a culmination of a process of negotiations, which might last months or even years.

But at this point, I can assure you that, on the contrary, the people's struggle continues. It is now being intensified with plans to launch both political and military offensives.

[Question] So how should Companera Ana Maria's statement be regarded? Could it represent an FPL effort?

[Answer] I do not know about that. The only thing I can tell you is that it is inaccurate and totally unauthorized by the FMLN-FDR Political-Diplomatic Commission.

[Question] To conclude now, Dr Castillo, who is authorized to make statements about the talks, negotiations or advances made by the struggle? In other words, who can make political, diplomatic or military statements in these cases?

[Answer] The joint bodies of the FMLN and of the FDR are the ones authorized to release communiques in this regard whenever there is any announcement to make. In the first place, I would mention the General Command of the FMLN or the joint Political-Diplomatic Commission of the FMLN and the FDR.

[Question] Doctor, who belongs to the Political-Diplomatic Commission?

[Answer] The Political-Diplomatic Commission includes Dr Guillermo Manuel Ungo, Mr Mario Aguinada, Dr Salvador Samaya, Dr Jose Rodriguez Ruiz, Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez, Mr Ruben Zamora and myself, Fabio Castillo.

RADIO VENCEREMOS CRITICIZES ENDERS NOMINATION

PA241836 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] While the working classes of the world, in unified coordination with the committees of solidarity with the Salvadoran people, are getting ready for the anti-imperialist activities of 1 May, the most reactionary sectors of the Reagan administration have approved the appointment of the man whom Alexander Haig proposed for assistant secretary for inter-American affairs. He is the diplomat and imperialist agent Thomas Enders. Enders, considered an expert on Vietnam and Kampuchea, was a key man at the U.S. Embassy in Phnom Penh in the early 1970's when he was involved in the terrorist actions which tried to stop the arms supply to the Vietcong combatants.

In March 1970, he promoted the coup d'etat which imposed Gen Lon Nol in the former Cambodia. This action was tied to the U.S. invasion and the genocidal bombing of the country that resulted in the deaths of over 100,000 Kampucheans.

Enders' experience as an intelligence expert lead us to foresee the nature of his views on Latin American affairs. However, the most reactionary sectors of gunman Reagan's administration think that Enders will be soft in carrying out the plans of the assistant secretariat for inter-American affairs because the gloomy policy of the imperialist Reagan government demands strong men to carry it out.

This picture is complete with the appointment of a former CIA agent, Thomas Pauken, to the Peace Corps. This has prompted protests in the U.S. Congress.

While Reagan is increasing his military and economic aid to the genocidal junta and promoting the appointment of obscure Vietnam veterans for inter-American affairs, the other democratic and peace-loving governments of the world, such as the Mexican, Canadian and Netherlands Governments among others, are expressing support for the Salvadorans' right to self-determination.

The genocidal junta is becoming increasingly isolated. We are involved in important battles not only in our country. The diplomatic battles give publicity and support to our struggle and above all, guarantee that just peoples will raise their voices to say no to Yankee intervention in El Salvador.

FMLN STATION NOTES JUNTA'S 'INTERNAL CONTRADICTIONS'

PA241524 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Station commentary]

[Text] The internal contradictions of the genocidal junta seem to have been keeping the murderous colonels very busy before they took action against Villa el Rosario, a free territory in El Salvador. They have already started with their gringo tactics by using 81-mm and 60-mm mortars to try to permit the incursion of infantry units to seize our positions and attack Villa el Rosario. We have been engaged in 2 consecutive days of combat on the banks of the Torola River along with defense lines of Villa el Rosario.

Our heroic combatants of the Francisco Sanchez eastern front have not allowed the enemy to take a single step forward in our free territory. The defense of Villa el Rosario and its inhabitants is being carried out by our combatants as it has been done in all the country's liberated territories.

We are complementing the actions of the firing lines with successful harassment and annihilation actions against the enemy in various areas of the region in order to defend and expand our territory. These actions have not allowed them to rest or increase their forces at any point. We know that the enemy is having serious internal problems which are weakening him every day and are the result of the political and military defeat in the country as well as abroad, where the junta is being increasingly isolated. The conversion of Villa el Rosario into a free territory is proof of this.

Move forward, combatants of Villa el Rosario. You have the support of the entire country. The leadership of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN] and the combatants of the four war fronts throughout the country salute your heroic struggle. United to fight until final victory! Revolution or death, we will win.

REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, GUERRILLA COMBAT ACTIONS

Power Failure in East

PA242326 San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 23 Apr 81 p 2

[Text] An extensive sector of San Miguel Department is without electricity because terrorists have sabotaged certain power lines. According to information received from spokesmen of the Lempa Hydroelectric Executive Commission (CEL), the service has been suspended for the past several days.

According to the spokesmen, the problem has been aggravated by the fact that some trees have fallen and broken high-voltage cables. In other cases, short circuits in substations have caused power failures in towns and agricultural work centers.

The most affected area in San Miguel Department is the area designated "Zone 18" by the CEL, which encompasses Ciudad Barrios and other towns. CEL delegates have reportedly been evaluating damage in the eastern part of the country in order to begin repairs and restore electrical service, on condition that protection is provided for the work squads which will have to make the repairs in isolated areas.

Health centers, sugar mills, coffee sheds, hemp processing plants, factories, cattle ranches and other production centers have been paralyzed because of the power failure. Meanwhile, CEL technicians are trying to solve the problem promptly.

Various Clashes

PA242322 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 24 Apr 81 pp 3, 25

[Text] In the past few days of this week, the subversive groups have intensified their activities in the countryside, according to reports obtained from armed forces spokesmen.

The sources said that a joint military patrol clashed with several guerrillas who were entrenched in Los Chavez Hill, Pepeto Canton of Tenancingo, Cuscatlan, 38 km northeast of San Salvador.

The military spokesman also reported that a group of leftists attacked the military posts outside of Tenancingo between 1900 and 2030. Yesterday morning we were informed that the situation was already under control.

In Los Mangos Canton, Ciudad Arce, Santa Ana Department, members of the artillery brigade clashed with a subversive group killing three of them. They also found a claymore mine and two loading tubes [as published] in a tunnel.

We were also informed that a seditious group attacked the military headquarters in Santo Tomas la Paz, with arms of all calibers. A rebel was wounded in this action.

Intensive Patrolling in Capital

PA242311 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 24 Apr 81 pp 2, 24

[Excerpt] As a result of two harassment attacks on Treasury Police posts near the place known as Agua Caliente on the former road to Soyapango, treasury policemen yesterday carried out intensive patrolling throughout the capital.

The attacks, which caused no casualties, took place at approximately noon and later at 1820. It was determined that the targets were the Treasury Police posts at the Lempa River Commission station and at the Oliva factory.

Upon investigation of the shooting, heard most loudly in Ciudad Delgado and Soyapango, it was learned that there were no casualties either among the assailants or the treasury policemen.

Entertainment Center Blast

PA242320 San Salvador Domestic Service in Spanish 1231 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The Plazalegre entertainment center, located on General Escalon Boulevard between 77 and 79 South Avenue in this capital, was destroyed by a terrorist explosion this morning at 0600. According to witnesses, eight men arrived in a car, walked into the Plaza Coffee Shop, on a corner of the Plazalegre entertainment center on 77 South Avenue and General Escalon Boulevard, forced the workers to leave the building and then set off explosive charges that destroyed the Plaza Coffee Shop and all the equipment and machines of Plazalegre. The owners of the entertainment center have yet to make an exact account of the losses, which off hand were estimated at some 80,000 colones.

The terrorists definitely have no consideration as to where they place their explosive charges. They are the ones who are trying to seize power by the use of violence. Plazalegre, an entertainment center for grownups and children, had been considered a safe place to have some fun. The terrorist explosion leaves four persons without jobs at the Plaza Coffee Shop and 30 or 40 from Plazalegre.

The owners of the entertainment center said it will be 3 or 4 months before they are back in business. They will have to put a new roof on the building, try to reapir machines and equipment which were not badly damaged and buy new ones.

Several businesses located in front of Plazalegre had their display windows shattered by the explosion. Many people gathered in front of Plazalegre out of curiosity and most of them harshly criticized the destructive activities carried out by the extremists, who with their actions are affecting the workers because they are left without jobs when the place where they work is destroyed.

Francisco Sanchez Front Report

PA]42308 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[War bulletin No 10 issued by the Francisco Sanchez northeastern front; date and place not given]

[Text] On 4 April, the genocidal forces of the Christian Democratic-military dictatorship aimed their 105-mm cannon and their 81-mm mortars at the empty trenches in La Guacamaya, Cerro Pando, Cerro Potrerito, Cerro la Ventana Marquez and Los Quebrachos Hills. Our revolutionary forces had broken the military cordon in order to make the enemy's efforts fruitless. The genocidal forces showed their low morale and their lack of fighting ability when they used artillery fire and heavy shooting for more than 48 hours against a position that had been abandoned for tactical reasons by the forces of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front [FMLN]. After that day, the genocidal forces installed a military camp in La Guacamaya region, getting supplies via helicopters. These forces are attacking the civilians who live nearby.

From 4 to 23 April, our forces carried out four attacks against the soldiers at this camp and under their own noses seized Arambala in order to carry out a meeting with the people there and to obtain tools and supplies. Our forces are keeping theis area restricted to the movements of this repressive force. Therefore, if these army units get out of their area they have to face our forces and have to return to their place. This camp is an attempt by the military junta to go on to a higher stage in the war against the people following the practices that U.S. imperialism advises and which were used in Vietnam. This tactic includes keeping military camps in the guerrilla regions; however, just as in Vietnam, this means that they are putting the arms within the people's reach and they will be recovered here.

Meanwhile, the junta's propaganda announces the great lies about the defeat of our revolutionary forces in Morazan. Within this framework, on Thursday, 16 April, our forces seized Villa el Rosario where 7 paramilitary members were captured, 1 killed and 29 armed ones fled. We recovered 4 Garand rifles, 3,000 7.62-mm rounds of ammunition and 1,800 .3006-caliber rounds of ammunition.

The occupation of Villa el Rosario is important for three reasons: 1) It vigorously denies the propaganda campaign of the genocidal junta regarding the defeat of our forces. 2) Within our military plans, it represents a tactical military objective that we needed to seize and 3) it demonstrates to the world the just and legitimate nature of our war because the people received our forces and allowed them to organize the new municipal government--a government that is the symbol of the new outlook opened to the Salvadoran people with the advance of our forces. This new outlook is the possibility to form their own government that respects the democratic and revolutionary program proposed by the Revolutionary Democratic Front and by the FMLN.

On 19 April, the genocidal army began its movements aimed at retaking Villa el Rosario concentrating forces in Osicala, Lalacoque, San Simon, San Isidro and Joccaitique. On 20 April, they started their advance from south to north toward the banks of the Torola River. On that day, our forces carried out an attack against enemy positions in Joateca and San Lucas.

On the afternoon of 21 April, our forces clashed with the genocidal forces, which had to halt their advance and started their attacks with mortar fire. No [word indistinct] were reported on that day.

At 0530 on 22 April, the confrontations started on the banks of the Torola River. The dictatorship's forces were able to advance and took position in La Gavilana Hill. The enemy advance included Rincon River and the road to San Isidro which leads to Villa el Rosario at the place where the Araute River meets with Torola River. In addition, they tried to attack the town of Torola on their way to Villa el Rosario via El Progreso.

The enemy's advance was halted in the morning hours, resulting in four soldiers wounded and one killed along the banks of the Torola River and four soldiers wounded and one treasury policeman killed in El Progreso. We had two guerrillas wounded, one of them only slightly. The enemy seized La Gavilana. When the enemy was pushed back to the bottom of the hill, heavy fighting occurred. The enemy carried out intense mortar fire throughout the day but our forces recovered La Gavilana in the afternoon, expelling the genocidal forces from the Torola River banks. We inflicted more casualties on the forces of the dictatorship in the fighting to retake La Gavilana; however, the exact number of casualties is unknown.

The general command of the Francisco Sanchez northeastern front announces to the people of El Salvador and the world that the red and white flag of the FMLN has not stopped waving in the main square in Villa el Rosario as a symbol of our people's freedom and struggle against the genocidal junta and as a symbol of the authority of the new municipal, democratic and revolutionary government that the heroic people of Villa el Rosario installed with the help of our revolutionary forces.

While fighting was underway along the defense lines of our territory, our forces went into Cacaopera in the morning of 22 April inflicting five casualties on the enemy in their own positions.

All these actions for the defense of our positions and the attacks against other positions are confirming our type of war in which we advance in our controlled territories on the one hand and we deal tactical blows to wear down or [word indistinct] the enemy's military forces on the other.

All these actions are military operations. There are also other facets in our revolutionary war which includes the advance of the people's organization that permits us to have organized bases in each of the positions and towns where the enemy forces are allegedly in control. Our army and our vanguard are advancing in the political and military spheres. There is not a single enemy military line which can stop the heroic advance of the Salvadoran people who are facing the government imposed and backed by U.S. imperialism with courage, dignity, bravery, patience and effort.

At 0500 on 23 April 1981, united to fight until final victory. Revolution or death, we shall win!

For the command of the Francisco Sanchez northeastern front: Commander Jorge Menendez, Commander Jonas, Commander Eleno Castro and Commander Carmelo.

Central Front Report

PA242237 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Summary of activities reported by the Modesto Ramirez central front--read by announcer]

[Text] On 20 April at 1200, the genocidal army entered the following places: La Bermuda, San Rafael and Tenango on the east side of Guazapa Hill.

The forces of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front discovered them as they were on their way in columns. Heavy fighting occurred and we killed one soldier and wounded one. We had no casualties. More than 400 henchmen participated in this action.

Tuesday, 21 April, the henchmen who were encamped in El Roblar were trying to withdraw their forces to Suchitoto going through Soyanada to arrive at Pena Colorado. They were detected by our forces and this resulted in heavy clash which lasted 45 minutes starting at 1000 and ending at 1045. There were two casualties for the enemy and none for the FMLN. Some 30 henchmen participated in this action. On that same day, 75 henchmen entered Aguacayo and camped in scattered groups.

On Wednesday, 22 April, the enemy entered the following places: Aguacayo where they had established a camp but continue to penetrate in that sector, Platanares, Estanzuelas, El Chorizo and San Antonio el Rancho where heavy fighting is underway. So far 300 henchmen with heavy artillery have entered.

MAN ACCUSED IN SHERATON HOTEL MURDERS TESTIFIES

PA252110 San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 25 Apr 81 pp 4, 17, 19, 20, 21, 25, 29

[Text] Ricardo Sol Meza was arraigned at the 5th Penal Court yesterday, having been charged with the deaths of Jose Rodolfo Viera, former president of the Salvadoran Agrarian Transformation Institute [ISTA], and David Pearlman. Mr Sol Meza arrived at this court at 1040 and left it at 1635. Sol Meza was heavily guarded by members of a security team as he arrived and when he left.

The accused; the prosecutors; Hector Enrique Jimenez, the 5th Penal Court judge: and Jorge Vitelio Luna and Carlos A. Mendez Flores, the defendant's counsels, were the only people present at the hearing. Sol Meza's arrival had caused so much expectation that many foreign press and television newsmen had been waiting for this hearing since Wednesday.

The text of Sol Meza's testimony says:

"That he ratifies in each and all of its parts the testimony that he gave to the detectives of the national police because it is the same that was read to him in these documents; that he does not accept the charges against him, that is that he participated, directly or indirectly, in the homicide of Mr Jose Rodolfo Viera, Mr Michael Peter Hammer and Mr Mark David Peralman; on 3 January 1981 Maj Mario Denis Moran and Silvia Orellana de Moran, his wife, arrived at his home between 2000 and 2030 to go out for dinner as they had decided to go to the Chun Sen Restaurant; that the wife of the deponent, Eugenia Aguilar de Sol, also accompanied them to the restaurant and they all left in the vehicle of the deponent, a gray Cherokee stationwagon. They dined at the previously mentioned restaurant and then went to the roller skating rink located at the El Salvador Sheraton Hotel in this city called Copacabana; that they arrived between 2200 and 2220 at the roller skating rink and sat down at one of the tables located adjacent to the roller skating rink inside the Copacabana room occupying a table next to a dance floor in the same room; that 5 minutes after their arrival some friends joined them. Their names are Carmen Aida Orellana, Ernesto Andreu and a young lady who seemed to have been accompanying Andre and whose name he cannot say because he does not know her--that having been the first time he ever saw her, he therefore could not recognize her if he saw her again."

He Joins Krist

"That approximately 15 minutes later, Hans Krist joined the group that the dependent's wife is co-owner of the Copacabana roller skating rink at the Sheraton Hotel and on the day the incident occurred the deponent was acting president of the Salvadoran Hotel Corporation which owns the Sheraton Hotel because his cousin, Alfonso Quinonez Meza, who is the president and owner of this company, was on vacation and had appointed him to that post.

"That 45 minutes after Hans Krist arrived he noticed some nervousness among the hotel servants and asked what was happening and one of the servants, not recalling, or better put, not identifying who the person was because it was very dark, told him that there were problems in the parking lot; that the deponent got up and told Maj Denis Moran to accompany him to find out what was happening; that since the entrance of the Copacabana Room was too crowded he decided to leave the room through the kitchen which is adjacent to the room were the deponent was; that when he opened the door to the kitchen the deponent and his companion, Maj Denis Mora, met the cooks and some waitresses making it a total number of six persons there at that time."

He Does Not Know

"That he does not know the names of the cooks but they are the same ones who are still working at the hotel; that he does not know the names of the waitresses either because there are many of them and they work shifts; that the people that he found in the kitchen told him that there had been shots in the Las Americas Room in the hotel in question; and that since this room is adjacent to the kitchen and there is direct access to it through three exits located in the southern side of the kitchen, they opted to go to Las Americas Room; that when they were going to that room he realized that Has Krist was about 3 or 4 meters behind him; That in order to enter into Las Americas Room they used one of the exit doors mentioned above and mentioned above and specifically the one on the east end of the kitchen's southside, as described before; that the other referent exit has two doors; that for his own safety he stood with his back to the wall and pushed one of the doors carefully with his right hand and that Major Moran did the same with the other door; than when he opened the door he noticed that there were no customers in the room except for one of the tables which was occupied; but he noticed that a group of some curious persons who had been there or had come from the ballroom were already in the room."

He Saw a Man's Body

"That when he peeked into Las Americas room the deponent saw a man's body laying on the floor on his tomach and with his face facing south and that he shirt was stained with blood and that there was blood around him; He also noticed that there was a pair of man's legs because he was wearing cowboy boots, these legs were facing south; that the person whom he saw on the floor, whom he said was laying on his stomach and his face facing south, had a beard; that the deponent limited himself to keeping the door open and preventing the hotel personnel who had gathered in the kitchen from entering Las Americas Room; that Major Moran did enter the room as far as 3 or 4 meters from the door; that Hans Krist also went into the room. "

He Says He Did Not Realize What Had Happened

"That the deponent did not truly realize what had happened in the room at that time and that it was not until Major Moran returned that he learned from him that there were three persons dead in Las Americas Room; that they immediately went to the place where they had left their wives to tell them what had happened and to tell them not to get upset and not to tell anybody what they had just told them to prevent any panic among the many people in the Copacabana Room, whose number the deponent estimates at between 150 and 200 persons; that he immediately decided to go to the kitchen to talk to the chef, whom he knows only as Daniel; that the deponent found him in the chef's office in the kitchen in the southeast corner of it; that the deponent told Daniel to take over the kitchen, or better put, to take charge of the kitchen and to work as if nothing happened; that then the deponent again opened the doors to Las Americas Room, the ones he referred to before, and noticed that some 20 persons had gathered there, including Peter Dumas, and he also believes, although he is not too sure, that Antonio Gomez, the hotel resident manager, was also there; that he also noticed that a person he does not know lifted the head of the person laying on the floor face down, that is, the body of the man who had a beard, apparently giving his first aid; that he also noticed that Hans Krist was still in the room taking a look at the scene from a distance of approximately 6 meters.

"That he wants to make it clear that when he returned to the kitchen to look for Daniel he was accompanied by Major Moran but that Moran went directly to Las Americas Room while the deponent talked with Daniel; that Mario Villacorta, manager and co-owner of the Copacabana, also accompanied the deponent because he had told Villacorta what had happened; that the following day, Sunday, 4 January 1981, he arrived at the El Salvador Sheraton Hotel and talked with Peter Dumas in the lobby at noon; that it was Dumas who informed him of the details of the incident and even supplied the names of the three persons who were killed."

He Already Knew From the Previous Night

"But the deponent already knew from the previous night that one of those killed was Mr Viera because he heard it from many persons. The deponent explains that after he went to Las Americas Room for the second time he remained there for approximately 10 minutes and returned with Major Moran to the Copacabana Room when he saw that the situation was already under the control of Dumas, the manager; that they remained in the Copacabana Room for another 30 minutes, more or less, during which the deponent asked Copacabana manager Mario Villacorta if it were better to gradually end the party that was being held in the room; that after 30 minutes he left with the persons with whom he had one to the hotel and returned to his home in his vehicle; that the deponent never asked if there were any witnesses to the incidents in Las Americas Room; that the persons he mentioned in this testimony can testify as witnesses to what he said and that they can be summoned from the Sheraton Hotel in this city; that this is all he has to say, that what he said is the truth because it is how he explained it and that this statement was read and suspended, to be continued later if necessary; that he confirms it and signs it, leaving the fingerprints of his two thumbs as confirmation."

Question

"At this point, in response to a question by Agent Carlos Figeac Cisneros the accused replies that on 3 January 1981 his wife had agreed in advance with Major Moran's wife to go to dinner at the Chun Sen Restaurant; that he cannot say if this was the first time they went to the Chun Sen Restaurant with Major Moran and his wife but that they had probably been there before because they see the major and his wife frequently; that the reason for the meetings that they have always held are strictly social because their children attend the same school and in addition the deponent's wife has known Mrs Moran since before she was married."

He Has Employees

"That the deponent has had employees that serve to protect him for approximately 4 years but these employees are furnished by the companies of which he is owner or partner because these firms have contracts with a security agency called SECORPI which is in charge of protecting all the executives of the enterprises of La Constancia group.

"That this security system that he has mentioned is more of the zone-type than of the individual-type; that the individual protection service was supplied by the same firms he mentioned for more or less 1 year and that this service is given everytime the gentlemen of the security agency feel it is necessary or when the deponent requests it; that the service referred to as zone-type is given by SECORPI many times without the knowledge of the executives being protected and it has happened many times that the person who is being protected is not aware of this protection. This type of security was organized by Oscar Burbano Chavez, a Colombian, who is no longer in the country; that the deponent does not personally know the persons who give them the security service but when he realizes that a car is following him he looks for a special sign on the car which serves as identification of his own security service.

"With regard to the agent's request that Sol Meza describe in detail the symbols used to identify the cars used for his protection and that of all the executives of La Constancia, the undersigned judge declared the request improper.

"That the acting chief of SECORPI is Gerbert Flores, who could be summoned from the offices of La Constancia; that the exact location of SECORPI's main branch is unknown to the deponent; that SECORPI is a legally established corporation; that on some occasions the deponent is aware of the names of the persons guarding him but that for reasons of security he prefers not to mention these names, not only for his own protection but for that of other executives who are being protected."

On Security

"That on 3 January of this year he probably had bodyguard service; that the protection provided to the deponent is not subject to a fixed timetable and can be considered continuous, based on shifts which cover 24 hours a day; that on 3 January of this year he did not ask the security chief to provide protection; that communication with SECORPI is effected through walke-talkies [in English]; that on the evening of 3 January the deponent was carrying his personal radio which, on his arrival at the El Salvador Sheraton Hotel, he left in the car in the place specially provided for charging the radio's battery; that from the Chun Sen Restaurant they decided to go to the Copacabana skating rink because they wanted the Moran couple to see it, becuase it had only been opened on 17 December of last year; that on 3 January the deponent was carrying a .357 Magnum Colt pistol, that he carried that weapon throughout the evening, even inside the hotel; that the deponent has a permit to carry arms issued by the National Guard and by the Treasury Police."

Unable To Give Precise Information

"That he could not say whether Maj Denis Moran was armed on 3 January; that the wife of the deponent was not armed on that date; that he could not say whether Maj Denis Moran's wife was armed, because it was impossible to see the contents of her purse. When he arrived at the Copacabana Room and went with his companions to sit at a table, as was detailed at the beginning of this deposition, and when Mr Andreu, Miss Carmen Aida Orellana and the other young lady whose name is unknown to the deponent arrived, he did not notice whether these persons were armed; that Hans Krist's description is as follows: 30 years of age, an industrialist, approximately 1.80 m tall, wavy blond hair that is somehwat thin and short. In addition, he has blue eyes, fair skin and a medium complexion; that Mr Krist was dressed as follows: white trousers, beige safari jacket, no tie; that he is not absolutely certain of the colors because of the time that has elapsed from 3 January to the present; that he has known Hans Krist for approximately 5 years, and Krist is the deponent's relative by marriage, because Krist is married to a sister of the deponent's wife; that his relationship with Krist has always been social in nature since it is their custom to visit each other and that most often it is Krist who visits the deponent's home; that on the evening of 3 January he did not observe Hans Krist to be armed; that at no time did the deponent see Krist carrying a walkie-talkie on the night in question; that during the 45 minutes in which Hans Krist was in the deponent's company in the Copacabana Room along with the other persons already mentioned in this deposition he did not leave the group; that throughout the evening, or rather during the entire time in which Hans Krist was with the group, the deponent did not see him make any gesture as if to summon anyone, because he only conversed with all the persons in the group."

He Got Up

"That from the time when he got up from the table on being informed that there were problems in the parking lot to his arrival in the kitchen some 3 or 4 minutes elapsed; that some 3 minutes elapsed from the time he went into the kitchen to the time he realized the Krist was following him; that at the moment to which he referred previously, he did not see Krist carrying anyting in his hands; that at no time from the moment in which he was informed that there were problems in the parking lot to the time when he left the hotel did the deponent make use of the weapon he was carrying.

"That when he opened the door to Las Americas Room for the first time and prevented the service personnel from going into the room, he did not order them to ignore what had happened, but told them only to return to their jobs; that at the moment he opened the door to Las Americas Room for the first time, he did not see Maj Denis Moran carrying any weapon. In response to questions from Prosecutor Rafael Antonio Reyes, the prisoner stated that the time which elapsed between the deponent's departure from his home along with his wife, Maj Denis Moran and Mrs Moran to their arrival at the Chun Sen Restaurant was approximately 10 to 15 minutes; that 15 to 17 minutes elapsed between the time of their departure from the restaurant and their arrival at the Sheraton Hotel; that there were approximately 15 clients in the Chun Sen Restaurant; that among the diners in the restaurant there was no one known to the deponent; that the deponent and Maj Denis Moran split the bill for the food consumed in the restaurant and paid in cash; that while he was in the Sheraton Hotel he had no reason to pay any bills."

He Did Not Know Them

"That the deponent was not acquainted with any of the three persons whose death is being investigated at present and know only that Rodolfo Viera was an ISTA official, information that he had read in the newspapers; that he had never seen Viera at the Sheraton Hotel; that the deponent is not acquainted with employees Miguel Gregorio Marroquin, Sofia Alas de Ramirez and Teresa de Jesus Torres; that perhaps at some time the deponent, upon realizing the identity of the person providing his protection, may have offered him a soft drink or some other beverage, but that it is (?not his custom) to extend personal courtesies to his bodyguards; that on 3 January he (?offered) a drink to the bodyguards; that because he had not entered the coffee shop [in English] at any time, he did not talk to anyone there; that on the day following the incidents, when he arrived at the Sheraton Hotel at midday, he did not know whether or not protection was being extended to him; that he does not remember if he requested a drink while he was talking with Peter Dumas in the hotel lobby. At this point, in response to a question asked by Jose Vitelio Luna, defender of the accused, he said that he does not know if he had bodyguard service on 3 January of this year while he was in the Sheraton Hotel; that on 3 January he did not offer any drinks to his bodyguards because he did not know if this service was being extended; that this is all he had to say; that his statements are the truth because this is the way things occurred and that having read his deposition, which is to be continued later if necessary, he confirms and signs it along with the assigned Agent Jorge Carlos Figeac Cisneros, prosecutor Rafael Antonio Reyes and Jorge Vitelio Luna, Jr and Carlos Alfredo Mendez Flores, defenders of the accused, who were present."

GUATEMALA

OFFICIALS REACT TO U.S. LEGISLATORS' VISIT

Foreign Minister's Comments

PA251507 Guatemala City Radio-Television Guatemala in Spanish 0400 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Recorded passages in quotation marks]

[Text] Three U.S. legislators met today with Guatemalan President Romeo Lucas at the presidential house. They arrived at the national palace with a police escort. The U.S. legislators are Senators Thomas Eagleton and Christopher Dodd and Representative Michael Barnes, who had previously visited Costa Rica and Nicaragua. The Guatemalan Foreign Ministry termed their trip a fact-finding tour of Central America. Eagleton, Democratic senator from Missouri, is chairman of the Senate Budget Committee; Dodd, Democratic senator from Connecticut, is a member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; and Barnes, Democratic representative from Maryland, is chairman of the Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee. The visitors met at the national palace with Foreign Minister Rafael Castillo Valdes. They will stay 1 day in Guatemala; tomorrow they will leave for Mexico and on Saturday they will return to the United States.

During their visit to the presidential house, the U.S. legislators talked to President Lucas and to Foreign Minister Castillo Valdes. They also met with Finance Minister Hugo Tulio Bucaro and with members of the Friends of the Country Association, an organization of private sector of the country.

Senator Dodd explained the reasons for their trip to Central American countries. Here is what he said:

"We are asking the people with whom we have talked in Costa Rica, Nicaragua, Guatemala and next Mexico what the United States can do for them. What are your problems? What kind of help do you need? This is what we have discussed in the meetings we have held. As I have said, we have a long-standing friendship with Guatemala and now there are problems in El Salvador and Nicaragua. Frankly, the problem is Fidel Castro and the people who have tried to change the form of governments we have had here in Central America.

Here in Guatemala there is only one problem: It is not a problem which cannot be solved, but to be frank and sincere because we are friends, the problem is human rights. We have talked to everyone about this and in the weeks and months ahead we are going to try to see if we can do more about this problem. We are going to hold talks in Washington and here also. This is what we have done during our short trip to your country."

The visiting legislators asked how many persons have disappeared in Guatemala. This is what Christopher Dodd said:

"We want to know how many people have disappeared, or are dead. We want to know who they are, whether they are from the left or the right, military or teachers. We want to know your opinion about this. This is the type of question we are interested in."

Foreign Minister Castillo Valdes was of the opinion that some statements made by the U.S. legislators were not too clear because of the language problem:

"I would like to repeat what we told the U.S. legislators today. The Guatemalan Government believes that no country or organization no matter how wise or ignorant, can or should intervene, to try to solve the problems of other countries. For example, it would not be right for Guatemala to try to solve the barbaric and frightening problem that the people of Atlanta are having. It would not be right for the Guatemalan Government or people to go and try to protect Reagan, who not many days ago survived an attempt on his life in Washington.

"I think there is something which needs to be mentioned and which is more important than anything else this young senator has said. I hope we both have become aware of the fact of the language and culture barriers. I realize that the senator who just talked was trying to say something nice and friendly about Guatemala. I sincerely believe he was trying, but due to the problems of language and culture barriers, what he said, I am sure, is not what he wanted to say."

Foreign Minister Castillo Valdes said that the Guatemalan Government has invited the U.S. legislators to return to Guatemala:

"In this respect, the president of the republic and I had hoped that these gentlemen's visit would not be so short, only 24 hours. The president of the republic invited them to return to Guatemala so that they can spend more time with us and to go anywhere they want to in Guatemala and see for themselves not only the beautiful parts of the country, but also how we are developing as a country thanks to the efforts of the Guatemalans."

Senator Dodd mentioned that the Guatemalan Government is interested in buying spare parts for helicopters. Here is what Dodd said:

"Some persons told us they need military aid. They want to buy, they do not want to be given free, spare parts for helicopters.

"When we return to the United States we are going to talk to the government and to our friends in the Senate and the House of Representatives about this."

Foreign Minister Castillo Valdes stressed the fact that they want to buy, not to be given, spare parts for helicopters:

"The president of the republic clearly said that although we need the help of that great country, the Guatemalan Government does not want to cause the least problem to the U.S. Government and people. When we talked about obtaining spare parts for planes and helicopters which are being used for the country's development, mainly in the northern region, it was clearly established that we want to buy these spare parts and not to receive them as a gift. Guatemalans are proud people who have the ability to solve their own problems."

Michael Barnes, another member of the U.S. delegation, said that in Nicaragua he could sense a definite interest among the people he talked with to have a democracy. Senator Dodd translated what he said into Spanish:

"Mr Barnes says that in Nicaragua where we spent some time talking to members of the private sector, to the workers of the newspaper LA PRENSA and to some members of the Nicaraguan church, he got the impression that the church, the private sector and newsmen are going to stay in the country and struggle to have a democracy in their country. This was a very significant observation. When we return to Washington we are going to report on this feeling we discovered in Nicaragua."

Before he left Managua for Guatemala City, Senator Eagleton said that he would like to see the Cuban military advisers leave Nicaragua and to see Managua be the capital of Nicaragua instead of Havana.

Deputy's Analysis

PA251258 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] We will not accept foreign intervention, Deputy Napoleon Alfaro said in relation to the visit of three U.S. legislators.

Alfaro, first secretary of congress, said that there are two ways to view the visit, and that certainly Guatemalans will not accept intervention in their affairs.

Alfaro admitted that since the legislators are members of the Inter-American Affairs Committee they are interested in the situation in Central America. Alfaro said that they can come to find out about the reality of Guatemala so that the situation here will known abroad, thereby eliminating erroneous concepts which only misconstrue our situation.

Deputy Alfaro said that the other way to interpret this visit would be to see it as an intervention in the internal affairs of our country. By this I mean, Deputy Alfaro added, that if they are going to try to give formulas which might imply an intervention, we are not going to accept them. The government has already said that we do not intervene in other countries' internal affairs.

NICARAGUA

MINISTRY REPORTS NEW INCIDENT AT HONDURAN BORDER

PA260143 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2159 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Managua, 25 Apr (ACAN-EFE)--A group of persons termed "counterrevolutionaries" by the Sandinist government staged an attack Friday on the northern border post of Guasaule, the Nicaraguan Defense Ministry reported today.

The attackers fired at Nicaraguan military installations without causing any casualties to the Sandinist People's Army.

The Defense Ministry spokesman added that members of the armed forces repelled the attack, causing the attackers to flee toward Honduran territory. The spokesman added that in Honduran territory, Honduran Army members immediately "took up positions in an open response to protect the attackers."

Moments later, the reports adds, "several Honduran Army vehicles arrived at the border in an unprecedented military deployment in that sector. The reinforcements were still there this morning."

"Once more we denounce the complicity of some sectors of the Honduran Armed Forces with bands of the former Somozist guards and at the same time we make an appeal to the responsible sectors of that country to preserve peace," the Defense Ministry reported.

It was also reported that Francisco Chavez Sauceda and Cornelio Rosales Solorzano are the Hondurans who were captured in Nicaraguan territory last 19 April and charged with espionage activities in Nicaragua.

According to the Defense Ministry, the arrested Hondurans declared that they carried out activities at the service of the Public Security Forces (FUSEP) and the National Investigation Department (DIN) of Honduras. Those arrested added also that they received orders from Capt Andres Trejos of the Honduran Armed Forces, who they called a collaborator with the bands of former Somozist guards.

Chavez Sauceda and Rosales Solorzano said they had a contact in Nicaragua to carry out their plans to establish strategic points for facilitating the penetration of former Somozist guards into Nicaraguan territory.

The Nicaraguan Foreign Affairs Ministry has been informed of the activities of the arrested Hondurans for the respective charges to be leveled.

USSR WHEAT DONATION ELICITS PEOPLE'S GRATITUDE

PA250356 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1800 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] The donation of wheat by the Soviet people has shown that all assistance must be granted unconditionally and selflessly.

The Nicaraguan people have expressed different opinions, full of gratitude, regarding the assistance given to us by the Soviet Union through the donation of 20,000 tons of wheat at a time when our people are facing a crisis. Companero Francisco Lopez Perez has said that the fact that the Soviet people--who are faced with the problem of a grains embargo--have taken the wheat we need out of their reserves is an example for nations friendly to Nicaragua. Let us listen to the people's opinion in this regard:

[Begin Lopez recording] Well, I feel this is the best response the Soviet people could have given to our people at a time we are facing difficulties, like the suspension of U.S. wheat shipments to our country. This shows two attitudes regarding a problem we had.

On the one hand we have the aggression by U.S. imperialism, which has traditionally attacked us economically, politically and militarily. On the other hand, we have the possibility of help from a people from whom Somozism had previously separated us, who are now giving us unconditional fraternal assistance. It is important to bear in mind that the Soviet Union is also facing problems with its wheat supply. As many people know, they have to buy wheat, even from the United States, who is the largest producer in the world. Yet, despite the U.S. grain embargo against it the Soviet Union has taken out of its reserves for the Soviet people, the 20,000 tons they recently donated to us through their ambassador to our country. [end recording]

COOPERATION AGREEMENTS SIGNED WITH LIBYA, CUBA

PA251714 Managua Radio Sandino in Spanish 1200 GMT 25 Apr 81

[ANN item from Managua--undated]

[Text] The Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah and Nicaragua yesterday signed a cooperation agreement for no less than $100 million which will be invested in the reconstruction of this Central American country. The agreement was signed by Ibrahim Muhammad at-Tajuri secretary of the Libyan People's Bureau in Nicaragua, and Nicaraguan Foreign Minister Miguel d'Escoto Brockman.

Commander Daniel Ortega, Sergio Ramirez and Rafael Cordoba Rivas, members of the Nicaraguan Government junta, were present for the ceremony. The Libyan aid includes the construction of an agricultural enterprise on the Atlantic coast with the participation of Nicaraguan and Libyan workers.

Commander Ortega, coordinator of the junta of the Government of National Reconstruction, spoke on behalf of the National Directorate of the Sandinist Front thanking the Libyan people and government for the gesture of solidarity with the Nicaraguan people under familiar circumstances. He said that the Libyan people have not hesitated to support the reconstruction of Nicaragua thus responding to fraternal sentiments that did not arise on 19 July 1979, when the revolution attained its triumph, but before, when the Sandinist Front was struggling against the Somozist regime. Commander Ortega said that these are days of victory for our people because despite the U.S. aggressions against our economy, international solidarity has emerged as a response to this negative attitude.

The Libyan representative said that the agreement signed between the two nations represents support for the Nicaraguan revolution. He said that the cooperation had already been discussed with Nicaraguan officials who went to Libya in February of last year.

Again yesterday, in the afternoon, in the meeting room of the Nicaraguan Foreign Ministry, immediately following the signing of the Libyan-Nicaraguan credit agreement, another cooperation agreement was signed. This second agreement was signed between the government and people of Cuba and that of Nicaragua. This agreement is for $64 million, $4 million more than that of the 1979-80 period.

The agreement was signed by Commander of the Revolution Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan planning minister, and by Hector Rodriguez Llompart, minister president of the Cuban State Committee for Economic Cooperation.

Commander Ruiz recalled that most sectors of the Cuban economy and many Nicaraguan technicians have contributed to the signing of the agreement. He stated his appreciation for them noting their dedication.

Agreement With Libya

PA252341 Paris AFP in Spanish 0312 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Managua, Apr 24, (AFP)--Nicaragua today appointed its first ambassador to Libya and at the same time signed an agreement guaranteeing broad economic assistance from that country. The Foreign Ministry announced that Guillermo Genie had been appointed ambassador to Libya and that he will leave for Tripoli in the next few days.

Meanwhile, Libya today signed an agreement here to supply Nicaragua with petroleum and to promote this country's agricultural development. The agreement includes the creation of a company with Arab and Nicaraguan capital for exploitation of agriculture on a 10,000-hectare tract which will be rented to the company by the Nicaraguan Government.

Another agreement between the Nicaraguan and Cuban Governments was also signed to promote the flow of Cuban aid to Nicaragua.

FIDEL, RAUL CASTRO VISIT SOVIET NAVAL FLAGSHIP

FL251335 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro has visited the Soviet naval detachment flagship in the Bay of Cienfuegos. Fidel was accompanied by Army Gen Raul Castro, second secretary of the party and minister of the Revolutionary Armed Forces (FAR); Julio Camacho Aguilera, member of the party Politburo; Vilma Espin, alternate member of the party Politburo; Humberto Miguel Fernandez, party first secretary in Cienfuegos; and Vice Adm Aldo Santamaria, deputy to the FAR minister and chief of the Revolutionary Navy.

Fidel and his entourgae were received aboard the flagship "Nikolayev" by Vice Adm Vladimir Samoylov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet and commander of the Soviet naval detachment that has been making an official and friendly visit to our country since 15 April.

Others present included Soviet Ambassador to Cuba Vitaliy Vorotnikov; Lt Gen Sergey Krovoplayasov, chief military adviser to the FAR ministry; and Navy Capt Genadiy Mikhaylov, military, naval and air attache to the Soviet Embassy in Cuba.

The proper military honors were rendered to our commander in chief aboard the flagship. During such honors, Fidel inspected a formation of sailors and greeted them while the detachment's band played the national anthems of the Soviet Union and Cuba.

Fidel and Raul, accompanied by Vice Admiral Samoylov and the falgship's captain, toured the modern warship and were briefed on its combat capabilities and modern armament. Fidel and vice Admiral Samoylov expressed wishes for the future strengthening of friendship between the peoples, parties, governments and armed forces of Cuba and the Soviet Union. They emphasized the fact that the visit of the Soviet naval detachment was being made on the occasion of the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the victory at Playa Giron.

The visit was concluded with a 21-gun salute and the playing of the Cuban and Soviet national anthems while the crew stood at attention in formation. Lastly, the sailors requested a friendly group photograph with their visitors.

SOVIET ADMIRAL SAMOYLOV HONORS GIRON DEAD

FL241535 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Vice Adm Vladimir A. Samoylov, first deputy commander of the Black Sea Fleet and commander of the visiting Soviet naval detachment, has paid homage to those killed in Playa Giron by laying a floral wreath at the plaque which perpetuates their memory at the Playa Giron Museum. At the end of his visit to the museum, Samoylov said the victory in Playa Giron was a great feat of the Cuban people and that the Soviet sailors are in Cuba to pay tribute to our people on the 20th anniversary of that victory.

Vice Admiral Samoylov and other staff members of the visiting naval detachment also visited the museum installed at the Australia sugar mill which was used as the headquarters of the Revolutionary Armed Forces during the Giron fighting. Their tour included a visit to the Guama tourist center.

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON HUNGARIAN DELEGATION

Fidel Castro Attends Reception

FL241204 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, president of the Councils of State and Ministers, last night attended a reception hosted by the Hungarian Embassy in honor of Jozsef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers, who heads that fraternal country's delegation to the 10th Cuban-Hungarian intergovernmental committee for economic relations being held in Havana.

During his stay at the embassy's reception, the president of the Cuban Council of State held talks with the Hungarian visitor on problems of the economy and international policy as well as on the results of the cooperation between the two countries, which is being taken up by the ongoing meeting.

Councils of State and Ministers Vice President Carlos Rafael Rodriguez, Council of Ministers Vice President Jose Ramon Fernandez--who heads the Cuban side to the meeting--Foreign Minister Interim Rene Anillo, Foreign Trade Minister Ricardo Cabrizas and Steelworking Industry Minister Marcos Lage also attended the reception and participated in the talks held by Fidel and Marjai.

Marjai Discussion With Castro

LD240914 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 0800 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Fidel Castro has received Jozsef Marjai, member of the MSZMP [Hungarian Socialist Workers Party] Central Committee and deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers. Jozsef Marjai arrived in Havana to take part in the session of the two countries' joint economic cooperation committee. In addition to the international situation, he discussed with Fidel Castro tasks in developing Hungarian-Cuban economic cooperation.

Cooperation Agreement Signed

FL250032 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] An economic cooperation agreement for this 5-year period and a trade agreement for the current year were signed today in this capital as the final protocol to the 10th session of the Cuban-Hungarian intergovernmental committee for economic and scientific-technical cooperation.

The documents were signed by the respective heads of the delegations, Jose Ramon Fernandez, vice president of the Council of Ministers, and Joszef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Hungarian Council of Ministers.

The cooperation agreement for this 5-year period provides for the granting of credits to our country to finance objectives under consideration by CEMA, including science and technology development. It also covers geological exploration, citrus production development and mechanical matters such as the local assembly of Ikarus buses, as well as broader bilateral trade.

Marjai Meets Garcia Frias

FL251540 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1500 GMT 25 Apr 81

[Text] Commander of the Revolution Guillermo Garcia Frias, member of the party Politburo and minister of transportation, has received Joszef Marjai, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the Hungarian People's Republic. Aspects of bilateral cooperation in the transportation sector between the two countries were discussed at the meeting, which was conducted in an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and friendship.

ST LUCIA

FURTHER REPORTAGE ON GOVERNMENT, PARTY CRISIS

No Confidence Motion Filed

FL240043 Bridgetown CANA in English 2310 GMT 23 Apr 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Excerpts] Castries, Saint Lucia, 23 Apr (CANA)--The opposition United Workers Party of former Prime Minister John Compton today filed a motion of no confidence of Prime Minister Allan Louisy's crisis-torn government with the clerk of the House of Assembly.

The UWP, which held power for 15 years before being defeated in 1979, also issued a statement today calling for the (?resignation) of acting Governor General Boswell Williams for his failure to exercise his constitutional powers by dissolving the House after the government's budget defeat. The statement also called for the appointment of a governor general's deputy who will command the confidence and support of all political groups in St Lucia and who will lead the nation into general elections by 30 June.

Louisy Giving Up Premiership

FL241510 Bridgetown CANA in English 1456 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 24 Apr (CANA)--Prime Minister Allan Louisy last night formally announced his intention to step down and let the 12 elected members of his crisis-torn labor government find a new leader. The announcement came in a broadcast after public servants said they would begin an indefinite strike to pressure for the dissolution of the House of Assembly and fresh elections.

The government has been plagued by a long running power struggle involving Louisy and Foreign Minister George Odlum. Louisy has been attempting to find new prime minister since 14 April when the House of Assembly rejected his governments 1981-82 budget. Louisy intended to put together a new cabinet including only some members of the Odlum faction. There were reports that George Odlum and two other ministers loyal to him would have been promptly dismissed.

The crisis was said to be heading towards a resolution earlier this week when Parliamentary Secretary Remy Lesmond, member of the Odlum faction who had apparently switched sides and supported a successor prime minister, suddenly changed his mind and insisted that the three Odlum supporters must be in the new cabinet. Lesmond's support was crucial to the formation of the new cabinet, in which Louisy's faction would be in total control.

Louisy said last night that Lesmond had given in writing his support for a new prime minister, believed to be Agriculture Minister Peter Josie. According to Louisy, Lesmond accompanied by Odlum and three other people left the island by yacht yesterday morning. Louisy said he believed their departure was intended to further aggravate the political crisis in the country.

Louisy said he had remained in office despite Odlum's challenge for the government's leadership not because he wanted to remain in power come what may, but because I felt I had responsibilities to the people of St Lucia, the vast majority of whom had put the Labor Party in power.

Louisy said he regarded the defeat on the budget as a defeat for him personally bearing in mind that during the debate members of his government had expressed their desire for new leadership. Because of this, he said, there was no need for him to dissolve Parliament after the budget was rejected.

Louisy said the CSA [Civil Service Association] decision for industrial action meant that the culmination of this matter is not too far distant and added: I have therefore decided to stand down in favor of an elected member who commands the support of a majority of the elected members of the House.

Josie: Solution in the Offing

FL241833 Bridgetown CANA in English 1814 GMT 24 Apr 81

[Text] Castries, St Lucia, 24 Apr (CANA)--Agriculture Minister Peter Josie, the man likely to be next prime minister, today assured St Lucians that a solution to the political crisis within the ruling Labor Party was in the offing. Josie's broadcast today followed Prime Minister Allan Louisy's announcement last night that he had decided to step down in favor of an elected member who commanded the support of the majority of members in the House of Assembly.

Josie denounced the indefinite strike called by the Civil Service Association [CSA] to force dissolution of Parliament and new elections. The civil servants were meeting again today in the light of Josie's address, but sources say they plan to go ahead with their action.

Government offices were closed today as the strike took effect. Several other business places where there are members of the St Lucia Workers Union (SLWU) were also closed, among them cable and wireless. The Chamber of Commerce is meeting later today to discuss the issue.

Josie said that with Louisy's decision "much work has already been done to regroup our forces and form a new government." Very soon new government would be announced, he said, explaining that the delay was due to the absence from the country of three of the Labor Party's 12 elected members.

According to Louisy last night, the three--Foreign Minister George Odlum, the man who led the fight for Louisy's resignation, Community Development Minister John Odlum, and Parliamentary Secretary Remy Lesmond--left the island earlier in the day on board a yacht, "The Halcyon." Their destination was unknown.

But Josie said when "victory" seemed near there seem to be "negative forces operating to prevent that people's victory from materializing." Josie, who was referring to the CSA decision, appealed to that organization to return to work, saying that no industrial reason had been given for the strike.

"No worker has been victimized, no monies are outstanding to the service which is causing this grievance, nothing that has been promised has been withdrawn and, in fact, industrial peace exists between the CSA and government."

Josie said that regardless of the state of affairs among politicians, civil servants "must... turn a blind eye and in their capacity as public servants continue to function even when things do not go well in the political circle." The CSA could not decide to take strike action if the government was not functioning, he said.

Referring to the strike at cable and wireless, Josie said that company operated an essential service and under the essential service act, 30 days notice was required before strike action could be taken there.

Josie praised Louisy's decision to step down, saying the prime minister had shown that he was not interested in power for the sake of power. Louisy, he said, had taken the position which "any just and honorable" prime minister would have taken in the circumstances.

Josie publicly said last weekend that he was prepared to forget past relationships (taken to be a reference to his 12-year association with Odlum) in the national interest.

Dissolution Actions Continue

FL251554 Bridgetown CANA in English 1234 GMT 25 Apr 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, 25 Apr (CANA)--The political crisis in St Lucia is this weekend rushing toward a climax following Prime Minister Allan Louisy's announcement that he had finally decided to step down from office. A rash of meetings of various groups in the capital followed his statement, in the face of threatened mass industrial action by workers to force dissolution of the 17-member House of Assembly and new general elections.

Agriculture Minister Peter Josie, now widely held to be Louisy's heir apparent, announced in an early morning broadcast Friday that with Louisy's decision "the dark political cloud which had engulfed St Lucia for over a year was about (?to be solved)" and that a new government would soon be formed.

But there was mounting pressure from the Civil Service Association (CSA) for a dissolution, and elections despite the statements by Louisy and Josie. The CSA took a decision to strike until Parliament was dissolved and on Friday government offices remained closed. Its call for similar support from other unions was either endorsed or being discussed. The Chamber of Commerce has ordered a shutdown of business places on Monday.

The St Lucia Workers Union (SLWU) called out its members at several business places including cable and wireless--an essential service designated by law where 30 days notice is required before strike action can be taken--to stage a 24-hour stoppage.

At the same time, opposition leader John Compton was making his pitch to the public--on television and through a planned massive demonstration on Sunday by his United Workers Party to force the government out of office.

Placards have been appearing in constitution park condemning Josie whose Friday morning address angered many civil servants. Josie has long been a close aide of Foreign Minister George Odlum, who spearheaded the struggle for Louisy's resignation. But earlier in the week, he said publicly that he would forget past friendships with ease in the interest of St Lucia.

The civil service strike--in addition to resulting in the closure of revenue-earning government departments--also affected ports. Hewanorra International Airport at Vieux Fort, south of here, was closed and all flights cancelled. One British West Indian Airways flight had to be diverted to Barbados.

Following the decision by the Chamber of Commerce to call for the dissolution of Parliament and a 1-day shutdown of all business places on Monday, chamber President Oran Monplaisir said: We have also decided to take whatever action we deem necessary if our request is not met within a week.

Odlum Calls for Election

FL251946 Bridgetown CANA in English 1938 GMT 25 Apr 81

[By Guy Ellis]

[Excerpts] Castries, St Lucia, 25 Apr (CANA)--Foreign Minister George Odlum flew back to St Lucia last night (?stating) that a general election, rather than the replacement of beleagured Prime Minister Allan Louisy, was the only way out of the current crisis. Odlum has been challenging Louisy for the leadership of this small Caribbean island. He indicated that he would not support moves within the divided Labor Party to reach a compromise by making Agriculture Minister Peter Josie the prime minister.

The crisis was no longer a matter of finding a new prime minister, Mr Odlum stated. "Morale (in the party) has been undermined too much. Too much nonsense has taken place," he said, "I have virtually broken away from the government."

On his attempts to head the Labor cabinet, Odlum said: "I don't think I am in the running for anything now. I am gearing myself to fight an election." He said: "I see dissolution of Parliament as almost inevitable. It has been allowed to go too far. It is not a situation that could easily be salvaged and the people who attempt to salvage it now might look equally opportunistic and even damage their own credibility."

ST. VINCENT

PREMIER CATO RETURNS FROM U.S., UK VISIT

FL172016 Bridgetown CANA in English 1921 GMT 17 Apr 81

[Excerpt] Kingstown, St Vincent, 17 Apr (CANA)--Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines, Milton Cato, has returned home from a short visit to the United States where he officiated at the formal opening of this country's mission to the United Nations. With him on the trip were his wife Lucy and Police Commissioner Benjamin Jackson. Deputy prime minister and minister of external affairs, Hudson Tannis, is non-resident ambassador to the U.N.

Mr Cato was recently in Britain to be admitted a member of the Queen's Privy Council, and later received for his government a new 856,000-sterling coastal patrol vessel from the British manufacturers. St Vincent and the Grenadines is to be involved with St Lucia and Barbados in a joint coast guard protection service.